

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

[[a)] storing means for storing a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

[[b)] receiving means:

[[i)] for receiving participation requests transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms,

[[ii)] for receiving content requests transmitted from [[any]] one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the content request including a selection from the list of available content, and

[[iii)] for receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[c)] acquiring means for acquiring the content requested by the content requests from the one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses;

[[d)] transmitting means for transmitting to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

[[i)] the list of available content stored in said storing means;

[[(ii)]] the content acquired by said acquiring means, wherein the content acquired by the acquiring means is transmitted to all of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses without receiving a request for the content from any of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses;

[[(iii)]] a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[(iv)]] said text messages received by said receiving means; and

[[(v)]] instructions to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms instructions commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to display both the list of available content and the name of the content being shared by all of information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the transmitting means.

2. (Currently Amended) The service providing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

[[(a)]] the content requested by the content requests is music and

[[(b)]] the selection is particular music data.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A service providing method for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing method comprising:

[[a)] a storage step of storing a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available content, and content in a service providing apparatus;

[[b)] a first reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a participation request to include one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms;

[[c)] a second reception step of receiving in the service providing apparatus a content request transmitted from [[any]] one of the information processing apparatuses belonging to said one of the of the plurality of chat rooms, the content request including a selection from the list of available content;

[[d)] a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[e)] an acquisition step of acquiring in the service providing apparatus the content requested by the content request from the one of the information processing apparatuses;

[[f)] a first communication step of transmitting from the service providing apparatus to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms the list of available content;

[[g)] a second communication step of transmitting from the service providing apparatus the content acquired by the acquisition step to all of the other information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating

in said one of the plurality of chat rooms without receiving a request for the content from any of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

[[(h)]] a transmission step of transmitting to each of the information processing apparatuses in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

~~(i) the content acquired in said acquisition step,~~

[[(ii)]] a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms,

[[(iii)]] the text messages, and

[[(iv)]] instructions to each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the service providing apparatus and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms instructions commanding said one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to display both the list of available content and the name of the content being shared by all of information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmissions from the service providing apparatus.

5. (Currently Amended) A program storage medium on which a computer-readable program for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses accessing a shared server on a network is stored, said computer-readable program comprising:

[[(a)]] a storage step of storing in the shared server a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

[[(b)]] a first reception step of receiving in the shared server a participation request transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses to include said

one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of said plurality of chat rooms;

[[c)] a second reception step of receiving a content request transmitted from [[any]] one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms, the content request including a selection from the list of available content;

[[d)] a third reception step of receiving text messages transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[e)] an acquisition step of acquiring the content requested by the content request received from the one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses;

[[f)] a first communication step of transmitting from the shared server to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms the list of available content;

[[g)] a second communication step of transmitting the content acquired by the acquisition step to all of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms without receiving a request for the content from any of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses; and

[[h)] a transmission step of transmitting to each of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

~~(i) the content acquired in said acquisition step;~~

[[(ii)]] a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms,

[[(iii)]] the text messages, and

[[(iv)]] instructions commanding each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms to display both the list of available content and the name of the content being shared by all of information processing apparatuses currently receiving transmission from the shared server.

6-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses, the service providing apparatus functioning as a shared server on a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

[[(a)]] a memory configured to store a plurality of chat rooms, a list of available content, and content;

[[(b)]] a network interface :

[[(i)]] configured to receive participation requests to include a corresponding one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses in one of the plurality of chat rooms, the participation requests transmitted from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses,

[[(ii)]] configured to receive content requests transmitted from [[any]] one of the information processing apparatuses currently participating in said

one of the plurality of chat rooms, the content requests including a selection from the list of available content; and

[[(iii)]] configured to receive text messages transmitted from any of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms;

[[(c)]] the network interface configured to acquire the content requested by the content requests received from the one of the information processing apparatuses;

[[(d)]] the network interface configured to transmit the acquired content to all of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses without receiving a request for the content from any of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses, and the text messages to all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms; and

[[(e)]] the network interface configured to transmit to each of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the plurality of chat rooms:

[[(i)]] the list of available content;

[[(ii)]] a list of all of the information processing apparatuses currently accessing the shared server and participating in said one of the of chat rooms;

~~(iii) the acquired content; and~~

[[(iv)]] the received text messages.

13. (Currently Amended) The service providing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein:

[[(a)]] the content is music data and

[[(b)]] the selection is particular music data.

14-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A service providing apparatus for providing a service to a plurality of information processing apparatuses via a network, said service providing apparatus comprising:

[[a)] a CPU ~~processor~~ configured to provide a plurality of information processing apparatuses with a chat room;

[[b)] a network interface configured:

[[i)] to receive text messages from any of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room and

[[ii)] to receive a content request transmitted from [[any]] one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room;

[[c)] the network interface configured to acquire the requested content in response to reception of a content request; and

[[d)] the network interface configured:

[[i)] to transmit a list of available content to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room;

[[ii)] to transmit the received text messages to all of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room; and

[[(iii)]] to transmit, when the network interface receives the content request from the one of the plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room, the acquired content to all of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room without receiving a request for the content from any of the other plurality of information processing apparatuses currently in the chat room.